



**REAR DETACHMENT-----**  
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**FRG CORNER-----**  
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**COMMUNITY**  
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# 121 Family Times

121 Signal Battalion Task Force Lightning

## Seasons Greetings

The holidays are fast approaching which means we are that much closer to the end of the deployment. During this holiday season, please be vigilant of one another as the holidays are not always bright and cheerful for everyone. We have made it this far through the deployment that it would be a shame for things to happen when we are almost at the end.

During the upcoming weeks, there will be several reintegration briefings being offered. The first one in our community will be on Thursday, 9 December, at 1200 at the Marshall Heights SAS building. If you are able to attend, we highly encourage you to do so. There will be another briefing offered for our unit on Friday, 29 January, at 1800 at the Woodland Inn. These briefings are a coordinated effort between ACS and the Chaplains and will cover various topics (some sensitive in nature) in regards to reintegrating your loved one into the family after a year long deployment. Your spouses will be receiving similar briefings downrange prior to redeployment.

As the time gets closer to our soldiers redeploying, we ask that you not allow yourself to get swept up into the rumor mill. Your spouse may tell you a specific date that he or she may be home but until you are contacted by the Rear Detachment that date is not official. There are several factors that come into play, which your soldier may not be aware of, and so we ask for your patience and flexibility. As soon as we are given official notification, the word will be passed down to each of you. Our intent is to notify you, as was done when your soldier came home for R&R, several days in advance so that you can begin to make necessary preparations for your soldier's arrival. A second phone call (or sometimes, multiple) will be made once the specific date and time of arrival has been identified. Please keep in mind that things are always subject to change. If you have any questions, please direct them to your Rear Detachment team. We appreciate your continued support, and together, we can make it successfully to the end of the deployment. Happy Holidays.



# FRG Corner

• **Fence Decorating Contest:** Competition ends on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Judges will come from outside of the Battalion to prevent any bias. The winning FRG will earn \$200 for their respective FRG.

• **Bath Towels/Wash Cloths Collection:** Competition will end on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. The FRG who can collect the most NEW bath towels and wash cloths will earn \$100 for their respective FRG. So far, HHC is in the lead with 18 towels and wash cloths collected.

• **Snacks/Drinks Collection:** Competition begins on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December and ends on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. The snacks should be individually wrapped and non-perishable (i.e. small bags of chips, cookies, etc.). The drinks can be from bottles of soda to water. The FRG who collects the most of these items will earn \$100 for their respective FRG.

• If you have any questions regarding the above competitions, please contact Michele Carter. Boxes will be set up at the Battalion for each FRG to drop the items in, or you can bring them to your next FRG meeting and we can collect them from there. We appreciate everyone's efforts in these competitions as we want all of our soldiers' homecoming to be a memorable event. The towels and snacks are being collected to place in our single soldiers rooms. We will let everyone know specific times and dates as to when we will be putting together the single soldier baskets as well as decorating the barracks and making beds. If you have an hour or so to spare, we'd greatly appreciate your help.



## Walk to Iraq (and Back) Standings

1. C Co.: 5401.9
2. HHC: 1875.92
3. A Co.: 1471.9
4. B Co.: 413

Welcome the newest members of the 121 family....

Ssg Ray & Kellie Shipley  
a baby boy, Kaleb Ray  
on 25 Oct 04

SGT Michael & Jean Bryan  
a baby girl, Courtney Elizabeth  
on 30 Oct 04



# December Events

## Community Corner

- 3: Hearts & Hands Craft Store Grand Opening at Leighton from 1800-2200 (Contact Mallie Campbell at 0931-889-6688)
- 4: Trip to Seiffen City (Contact Outdoor Recreation)
- 5: Kitzingen Tree Lighting Ceremony at 1600 on Harvey barracks
- 5: German American Church Service at 1700 at the "Yellow Church" in Kitzingen (Contact BSB Chaplain's Office at 0931-889-1570)
- 8: Kitzingen & Wurzburg Town Hall Meetings at 1800
- 15: Trip to Stuttgart Christmas Market (Contact Annemarie Weppler at 0931-272-130)
- 16-17: Babysitter's Training Course (Contact ACS)
- 17: Christmas in Germany Workshop from 1830-2030 (Contact Leighton ACS)
- 20: USAREUR begins  $\frac{1}{2}$  Holiday Schedule
- 20-31: Winter Recess for DODDS
- 24-27: USAREUR Training Holiday
- 31: USAREUR Training Holiday

## Battalion Corner

**\*VTC Schedule:** Saturday, 4 Dec (soldiers on FOB Danger)  
 Sunday, 5 Dec (soldiers on FOBs Speicher & Warhorse)  
 Saturday, 18 Dec (soldiers on FOB Danger)  
 Sunday, 19 Dec (soldiers on FOBs Speicher & Warhorse)

VTCs start at 1500 and end at 2000, Germany time. If you are interested in signing up, email Michele Carter. VTC for soldiers on FOB Speicher are from 1500-1720 and for soldiers on FOB Warhorse from 1750-2000. VTC capabilities will be expanded to the other FOBs as soon as they have the technology to do so.

**\*Walk to Iraq:** If you are participating in the Walk to Iraq program, please ensure that you are emailing your monthly miles to Michele Carter.

**\*Christmas Party:** 11 Dec 04 at 1800 at the Woodland Inn. The Battalion will provide the meat and drinks, all we ask is that you bring a side dish. Santa Claus will also be on hand for the children. We will be making banners to hang in the barracks for our single soldiers.

**\*Battalion Trip:** Strassbourg, France on 18 Dec 04.